

Ms. Wendy S. Wyels, Chief, Compliance and Enforcement Section

Ms. Sue McConnell, Senior WRCE

Regional Water Quality Control Board

Central Valley Region

VIA: Electronic Submission

11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200

Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-6144

Re: Draft cleanup and abatement order, Rubicon Trail, El Dorado County

Dear Wendy,

Hi, my name is Shannon Johnston and I am 12 years old. I have been going up on the Rubicon since before I can remember. It would be sad if you closed it during the winter. I have a lot of fun memories from being up there.

Even though you might think it's a good idea to close the Rubicon Trail during the winter, I strongly disagree. I think if people work on the trail, such as make more ditches for water run off, I think it will help more. I am sure lots of people would love to help, as long as the trail means something to them. I would definitely volunteer, but between school, a job and activities outside of school I don't have much time.

I think you should also find a way to have people help keep the trail maintained during the summer. For example have a few people, who go up their often, who will go up and check the ditches for debris, check popular campsites for litter, and make sure no one is going off trail by building barriers of big logs. I wish you would keep it open ALL the time, especially during the winter! I love to go up there with my dad and his friends.

I think outhouses are smelly, but they serve a purpose. I think if people used WAG bags it would help a lot more. I also think if people were taught to bring back their used toilet paper, it would start to keep the area clean.

My dad has taught me how to respect nature, as well as take care of it. He taught me to take pictures instead of pulling up the beautiful wildflowers. He taught me to always put trash in a bag and not on the ground. But I know if people try, and try hard, they can make people understand that its a wonderful place to be and not some place they can trash.

I hope this letter meant something to you, and that you understand what I am saying.

Sincerely,

Shannon Johnston

Garden Valley, CA